

Work Effort Summary

Southern California R Occupancy Work Group

Submitted on January 18, 2006.

The Southern California Work Group (group) consists of representatives from building departments, fire departments and industry. By respective categories they are:

BUILDING Joe Kirkpatrick- Co-chair; Ali Fattah; Roy Itani; Tom Nikzad; George Lockfort; Troung Huynh; Martin Montessoro; Mohammad Heivand; Steve Ikkanda

FIRE Jim Pettigrew- Co-chair; Ricky Lewis; Frankie Murphy; Keith Lee; Brad Dotts; Jason Nuesca; Nathan Honda; Janna Doty.

INDUSTRY Ed Waas; Mark Kluver

Division of Responsibilities

The Southern California R Occupancy Work Group focused on R 1 and R 3 occupancies as defined in the current California Building Code (CBC) and California Fire Code (CFC) and their equivalents in the 2006 International Building Code (IBC). The Northern California R Occupancy Work Group's focus was R 2 and R 6 occupancies. This divided focus was suggested by Rick Terry, work group chairman of the Northern California R Occupancy Work Group in recognition of the logistical difficulties with convening meetings between northern and southern California members. Members of the southern group having an interest in northern group issues were advised to monitor the northern group's efforts on the State Fire Marshal (SFM) web page and contact the group directly with any comments or concerns.

Activity Overview

The group met on five separate occasions, October 12, 2005; November 8, 2005; November 29, 2005; December 13, 2005 and January 10, 2006. At its first meeting, using the State Fire Marshal's July 12, 2005 guidance document, the group discussed and agreed upon an outline of the work effort and distributed assignments. Subsequent meetings were convened to review progress and consider recommendations.

The process was divided into two main efforts. One effort consisted of performing comparative analyses of the CBC and IBC as they relate to the assigned occupancies in each of the following code areas: Occupancy Group Definitions; Construction; Height; Area; Location on Property; Smoke Barriers; Definitions; Occupancy Separations; Special Hazards; Fire Protections systems; Interior Finishes. Individuals or subgroups responsible for a given area were to report back to the group their findings and recommendations to either leave the IBC unchanged, or to recommend a change in

keeping with the SFM's goal to have an amended IBC that is equivalent "holistically" to the current CBC.

The second effort considered SFM amendments, both statutory and non-statutory, contained in the CBC and the California Fire Code (CFC) and relating to R 1 and R 3 occupancies. Individuals or subgroups responsible for a given amendment were to report back to the group their findings and recommendations. It was expected that amendments would be carried over into the IBC and IFC unless a finding of "holistic" equivalency could be made.

Activities Summarized

Comparative Analyses- Of the topics considered in the comparative analyses (see underlined list in Activity Overview), numerous differences between the CBC and IBC were discussed, however, demonstrating a deficiency in the IBC proved difficult inasmuch as the differences amounted to differences in approach or concept without a clear "apples to apples" comparison available. The group, therefore, is recommending only one amendment as a result of this effort. The amendments address escape and rescue windows to provide for equivalency with the current CBC and CFC, see attachment #1a and 1b.

Amendments- The CBC and CFC were each reviewed to compile a list of existing SFM amendments pertaining to R 1 and R 3 occupancies.

Amendments in the CBC listed by their CBC code sections along with committee findings or reference to attached express terms are as follows, the numbers in parentheses following the code section are the numbers to the attachments provided herewith:

CBC Sec. 205 (#2);

CBC Sec. 310.1 (#3);

CBC Sec. 310.4 (#4a and #4b);

CBC Sec. 310.9.1.5; contains a non-statutory amendment for clarification purposes which is not needed in the IB

CBC Sec 310.10 (#5);

CBC Sec. 310.12 (#2);

CBC Sec. 310.14 (#6 this item needs additional work, and will be transmitted later);

CBC Sec 310.15 (#2);

CBC Sec 310.16 (#7);

CBC 904.2.9; contains a non-statutory amendment that was judged unnecessary in both the current CBC and the proposed IBC and therefore recommended for elimination.

CBC 1007.6.2.1 (#8).

The CFC amendments reviewed along with committee findings are as follows:

CFC Sec. 1003.2.9 is adequately covered by IFC Sec. 310.9.15.

CFC Sec. 1006.3.3.1.1 is adequately covered by section IBC Sec. 907.3.2 and IFC Sec. 907.4.2

CFC Sec. 1006.2.9.1.5 requires cross reference to future CBC accessibility provisions.

CFC Sec. 1006.3.3.1 exception 2 is adequately covered by 907.2.9, exception 4 and 907.4.1, exception 2

Still pending are: To complete with committee input...Sec. 310.14, unless completed shortly.

Attachments: #1-5, 7, and 8, #6 regarding Sec. 310.14 is pending completion.

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